

## Ann Arbor Township, Barton Village Board of Trustees, Washtenaw County Road Commission and the Citizens for Foster Road Bridge Conservancy

Rehabilitation of the Maple Road (Foster) Bridge Over the Huron River,  
Ann Arbor Township



The Maple Road - Foster Bridge Over the Huron River is one of two metal truss bridges in Michigan dating from 1876, making it one of the oldest such bridges in the state.



By late 1999, due to the structural deterioration of the bridge and concern for public safety, a reduced limit of 6 tons was imposed on the bridge. The Washtenaw County Road Commission began looking for funding to replace the bridge in early 2000. Concerned about preserving the historic bridge while retaining its rural character, and realizing that something needed to be done soon, local citizens formed the Citizens for Foster Road Bridge Conservancy (CFBC).

The CFBC raised over \$40,000 for an in-depth inspection and analysis. In September 2000 the CFBC began raising money to finance the rehabilitation. Ann Arbor Township provided funds for preliminary engineering, Barton Village Trustees pledged \$225,000 from their own escrowed Michigan Transportation Funds, and the Washtenaw County Road Commission subsidized the remaining funds from its general fund.

The rehabilitated Foster Bridge reopened on October 10, 2003, with a 20-ton load limit that accommodates school buses, fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. Barton Village and the county road commission funded the construction. This project demonstrated what could be done when citizens and local government work together and pool their resources.